THE SHOWDOWN OF THE CENTURY!

MARVEL COMICS VERSUS DC

#2

MAR 96

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DIRECT EDITION
00111
7 59606 03463 5
$3.95 US $5.55 CAN

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MARVEL VERSUS DC/DC VERSUS MARVEL #2
PUBLISHED BY MARVEL COMICS, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016.
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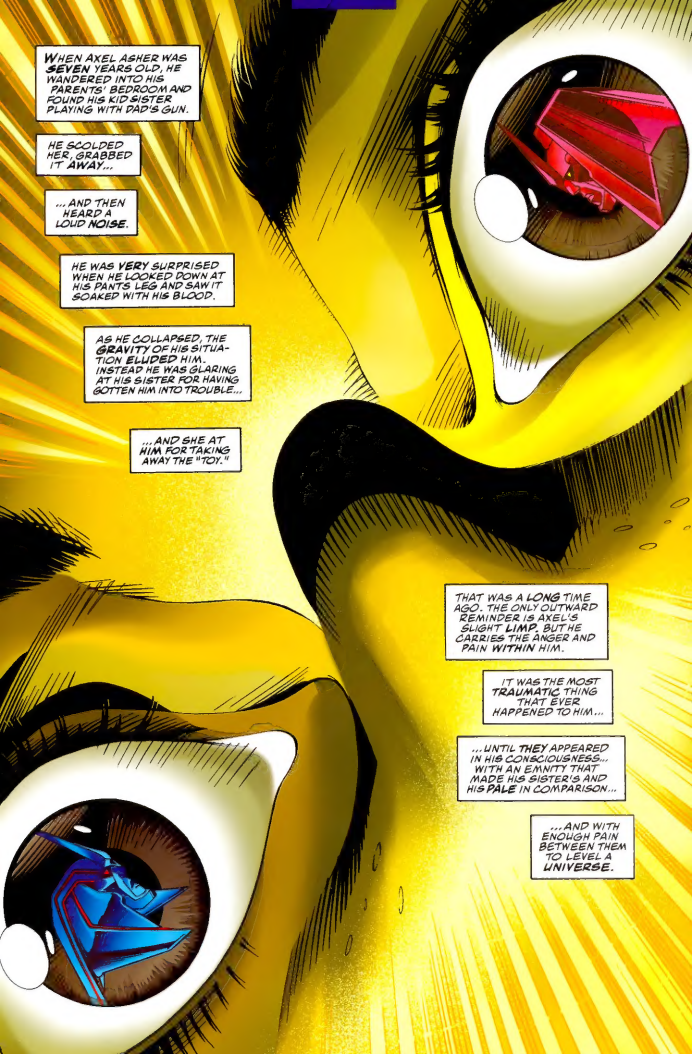
PRINTED IN CANADA. FIRST PRINTING.


WHEN AXEL ASHER WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD, HE WANDERED INTO HIS PARENTS' BEDROOM AND FOUND HIS KID SISTER PLAYING WITH DAD'S GUN.
HE SCOLDED HER, GRABBED IT AWAY...
...AND THEN HEARD A LOUD NOISE.
HE WAS VERY SURPRISED WHEN HE LOOKED DOWN AT HIS PANTS LEG AND SAW IT SOAKED WITH HIS BLOOD.
AS HE COLLAPSED, THE GRAVITY OF HIS SITUATION ELUDED HIM. INSTEAD HE WAS GLARING AT HIS SISTER FOR HAVING GOTTEN HIM INTO TROUBLE...
...AND SHE AT HIM FOR TAKING AWAY THE "TOY."
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. THE ONLY OUTWARD REMINDER IS AXEL'S SLIGHT LIMP. BUT HE CARRIES THE ANGER AND PAIN WITHIN HIM.
IT WAS THE MOST TRAUMATIC THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO HIM...
...UNTIL THEY APPEARED IN HIS CONSCIOUSNESS... WITH AN EMNITY THAT MADE HIS SISTER'S AND HIS PALE IN COMPARISON...
...AND WITH ENOUGH PAIN BETWEEN THEM TO LEVEL A UNIVERSE.

unhhh...
SIR! EXCUSE ME, SIR!
YOU GOT A PROBLEM OVER THERE?
N... NO OFFICER. I'LL JUST...
...I'LL JUST BE MOVING ALONG, OKAY?
ACTUALLY, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU STEPPED BACK OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE, SIR.
GREAT... HE THINKS I'M ON DRUGS OR SOMETHING...
"NO, NO OFFICER, THERE'S JUST THESE TWO... THINGS... FIGHTING IN MY HEAD. NO DRUGS AT ALL."
SIR, I'M ASKING YOU TO STEP OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE.
MAY I ASK WHAT I'VE DONE?
FOR STARTERS, YOU'VE IGNORED A DIRECT REQUEST FROM A POLICE OFFICER.
A "POLICE OFFICER"? EXCUSE ME, FELLA... BUT I DIDN'T SEE YOU AT ROLL CALL AT THE ONE-FOUR THIS MORNING!
THE ONE-FOUR? THAT PRECINCT IS ACROSS TOWN!
'FRAID NOT! I BEEN WORKING GOTHAM CITY FOR NINE YEARS, AND THE ONE-FOUR IS RIGHT H--
"GOTHAM CITY"? ARE YOU NUTS?! THIS IS NEW YORK! WHERE'S "GOTHAM CITY"?
BURSTS OF LIGHT... FAKE COPS... IT'S LIKE THE WHOLE CITY IS GOING DOWN THE SEWER...

AIM THOSE PIG-STICKERS SOMEWHERE ELSE, LITTLE MAN... OR I'LL PICK YOUR TEETH WITH THEM FROM THE INSIDE OUT!
FWOOOM!
¿unh!?
NOW I... KNOW WHY YOU CALL YOURSELF "KILLER CROC."
BECAUSE YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A CROCK OF--
SHOOT!
OH, LOOK! AN AUDIENCE TO WATCH ME TEAR YOU TO BITS!
GOOD. THEY CAN APPLAUD YOUR FINAL CURTAIN.
HAVE TO CHANGE TO MY COSTUME...
...IF ONLY I CAN DITCH THIS GUY WITHOUT HIS GETTING SUSPICIOUS...

THERE HAVE BEEN ANY NUMBER OF TIMES WHEN AXEL ASHER HAS FELT THE NEED TO MOVE ON... TO ROAM...
...TO CONTINUE HIS SEARCH FOR THAT GOAL WHICH HE CANNOT EVEN NAME.
IN THE PAST, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN A MORE SUBTLE FEELING. BUT FEWER THINGS ARE LESS SUBTLE THAN HAVING A MANHOLE COVER ALMOST DECAPITATE YOU.
AXEL'S READY TO MAX THE CASH FROM HIS CHECKING ACCOUNT AND BLOW TOWN.
UNFORTUNATELY... THE AUTOMATIC TELLER MACHINE IS DISINCLINED TO COOPERATE.
"ACCOUNT NOT RECOGNIZED"?! WHAT IS THIS?!?
STOP SPITTING OUT MY CARD, YOU STUPID...!
BUT WHY DOES THAT ALLEYWAY SEEM AWFULLY FAMILIAR?
WAAAAIT A MINUTE... I DON'T KNOW THIS AREA OF TOWN...
FINALLY, YOU GOT YOUR TAIL BACK HERE! TOOK LONG ENOUGH!
WHAT... IS THAT?
AW, FER CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
WHEN THERE'S A UNIVERSE TO SAVE, YOU CAN'T STOP FOR EXPOSITION!

ELSE-WHERE...
...THANOS, CONSORT OF DEATH, WATCHES THE POTENTIALLY CATACLYSMIC FLUCTUA-TIONS OF THE UNIVERSE...
...AND SMILES.
A SMILE THAT IS ONLY DIMMED BY THE LIGHT...
BOOM!
...OF A SWIFTLY FADING BOOM TUBE.
WHILE ON EARTH... SOME EARTH...
DON'T FORCE ME TO HAVE TO HURT YOU, BANE!
THE WARNINGS OF THE SHIELD-SLINGER ARE MUCH APPRECI-ATED...
SMACK
...ALMOST AS MUCH AS HIS ABYSMAL AIM.

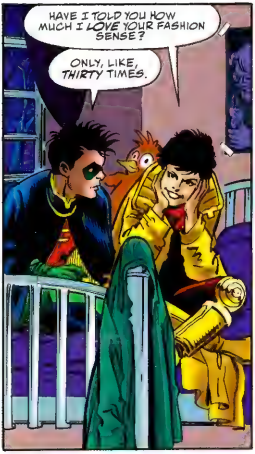
EXCUSE ME... SIR? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
I WAS IN THIS STORE YESTERDAY AND NONE OF THIS STUFF WAS HERE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DISPLAY OF X-MEN STUFF?
WHAT'S... "X--
--MEN"?!
KERAASH!
THIS IS NUTS! I KNOW CROC IS BAD NEWS...
...BUT THE GUY HE'S SLUGGING WITH MIGHT BE JUST AS BAD!
I'LL HAVE TO TAKE 'EM BOTH DOWN...
...BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS!
GODDESS!
NO... AMAZON.
WARNER BROS

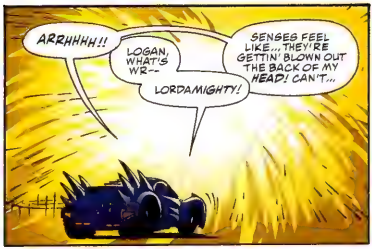
ELSEWHERE...
YOU HAVE THROWN AWAY WHAT SLIGHT ADVANTAGE YOUR WEAPON MIGHT HAVE PROVIDED...
... EXPOSING YOURSELF TO A BACK-BREAKING ATTACK THAT WILL LEAVE YOU CRIPPLED AND USELESS.
I WONDER, STRANGER, WHAT SORT OF PATHETIC STRATEGY YOU WOULD CALL THAT.
BLAANNG!
THE KIND THAT WORKS.
NOW... NO MORE BACK TALK FROM YOU.

HE'S BEEN TRACKING THE LIZARDLIKE INDIVIDUAL FOR SOME BLOCKS NOW.
THE LIZARD, FOR THE MOMENT, SEEMS CONTENT TO SURVEY HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS RATHER THAN ACT UPON THEM.
THE BATMAN DOES NOT EXPECT THAT TO LAST.
BUT THEN SOMETHING ELSE DRAWS HIS ATTENTION...
...AND IN MAKING A DECISION AS TO WHERE HIS PRIORITIES MUST LIE...
...HE'LL ERR ON THE SIDE OF FORMER PARTNERS.
FOR ONE ROBIN HAS ALREADY VANISHED THIS DAY, AND HE'LL NOT LOSE ANOTHER...
...EVEN IF THAT ROBIN IS NOW CALLING HIMSELF NIGHTWING.

NEW YORK... GOTHAM...
...WHEREVER...
SO! YOU CAME BACK!
SHOULD'VE RECOGNIZED YOU WHEN YOU CAME POKING AROUND BEFORE! MUST BE GETTING SENILE!
SO, YOU GONNA HELP OR NOT?
WHAT... WHAT IS THAT?!
DUCT TAPE! FIRST LAW OF THE UNIVERSE: CAN NEVER HAVE TOO MUCH DUCT TAPE!
NO, I MEAN THAT LIGHT... WHAT'S...
AW, CRIPES! GET BACK! IT'S---
IT'S TOO
LATE!
THE CAJUN TAGGED ME PRETTY GOOD... BUT WHEN I CAME AROUND, THEY'D RUN OFF.
THEY'RE PROBABLY MILES FROM HERE BY NOW...
VROOM!
THINK SO, NIGHTWING?
huh?

HEY! THOSE DIRTY--!
AW, MAN, I TOLD YOU TO BUY THE CLUB, BUT NOOO...!
NICE SET OF WHEELS. THEY'LL GET US BACK TO WESTCHESTER IN NO TIME...
...AND MAYBE CHARLIE CAN HELP US FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
PERFECT. JUST PERFECT. IT JUST MAKES YOU WONDER...
"...WHAT ELSE CAN GO WRONG TODAY?"
"CALM DOWN, DICK. I FELT THE BEST WAY TO SEE WHERE THEY CAME FROM..."
...IS TO SEE WHERE THEY GO. WE'LL TRACK THEM EASILY.
WITH ANY LUCK, WE'LL EVEN GET A CLUE TO ROBIN'S WHEREABOUTS.
"GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT SORT OF DANGER HE'S IN."
WOW...


HAVE I TOLD YOU HOW MUCH I LOVE YOUR FASHION SENSE?
ONLY, LIKE, THIRTY TIMES.


ARRHHHH!!
LOGAN, WHAT'S WR--
LORDAMIGHTY!
SENSES FEEL LIKE... THEY'RE GETTIN' BLOWN OUT THE BACK OF MY HEAD! CAN'T...

"THIS IS IT, KID!

"I TRIED TO HOLD IT BACK...
"...TRIED TO DO THE JOB I'VE HAD FOR AGES...
"... BUT IT'S NO GOOD!
"THE 'BROTHERS' HAVE NOTICED EACH OTHER!
"THE BATTLE'S JOINED!"

AIN'T NOTHING YOU OR I CAN DO NOW EXCEPT HOLD ON! AND TRY NOT TO GO NUTS FROM WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO SEE!
SEE?! SEE WH--
AND THEN... REAL UNREALITY FLOODS HIM, AND HE HEARS A MILLION VOICES AS ONE...

In the beginning... there were two entities... "Brothers" although they were also sisters, sexless, and everything in between.
They were Yin and Yang, good and evil, the Malinu...
They encompassed the whole of everything... except each other, each was simply... "me."
Once before they came together in battle, unleashing forces that ended and then began all creation over again.
In the explosion of death and rebirth, the Brothers were blasted apart. Their shattered essence fractured the new-born universe into a multiverse.
Fragments of their essence blew in all directions, and as the universe spread ever outward, so did the Brothers.
It took them eons just to remember they had consciousness. They had to think... before they could be.
And in all that time, their memory of each other had vanished.
But now, due to recent cosmos-shaking events that tore the fabric of the universe and redefined reality...
...the Brothers have become aware of each other once more.

ONCE AGAIN REALIZING THAT EACH WAS NO LONGER "ME" BUT "US," THEY COULD NOT EXIST WITH THEIR LACK OF UNIQUENESS.
NOR WAS EITHER ONE WHOLE, FOR IN THEIR CENTURIES-LONG BATTLE, SOME OF EACH OF THEM WOUND UP IN EACH OTHER'S UNIVERSE.
BOTH OF THEM DESIRED TO BE "WHOLE" AND UNIQUE.
BUT THEY HAD LEARNED THE FUTILITY OF A HEAD-TO-HEAD STRUGGLE.
HOWEVER, IN OBSERVING AND UNDERSTANDING THE EXISTENCE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COSMIC GUARDIANS... THE SPECTRE AND THE LIVING TRIBUNAL... THEY HAVE HIT UPON A SOLUTION.
BASED UPON THEIR BELIEFS THAT EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSES IS INTRINSICALLY SUPERIOR TO THE OTHER'S...
...THEY WILL PIT THEIR RESPECTIVE SUPER-POWERED BEINGS AGAINST EACH OTHER IN A WAR TO END ALL WARS...
...AND END ONE UNIVERSE.

The problem is that some of these champions are so powerful, a battle could continue forever with no true conclusion.
So the rules are simple:
Whoever immobilizes the other first, in each instance, wins. The equivalent in earth wrestling of pinning one's opponent.
Whichever side loses the most matches...
...vanishes forever.
Each pair of heroes will be summoned, when it is their time, to a place of battle, and battle they must, for if they refuse...
...then nothing can stop the brothers from going to war themselves... and if that happens...
...it means the end of everything.

DID...
DID YOU... SEE THAT? DID YOU... UNDERSTAND WHAT JUST...
OF COURSE I SAW AND UNDERSTOOD. EVERYONE IN EXISTENCE DID. BUT I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN... JUST AS YOU ALWAYS HAVE.
I DON'T GET IT... HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE? THIS... BOX? WHAT IS IT?
REMEMBER THE BROTHERS LOST PARTS OF THEMSELVES IN THE BIG BANG. "SHARDS," YOU MIGHT CALL IT.
THESE SHARDS TAKE DIFFERENT FORMS. SOME OF THEM COLLECTED TO BECOME VORTEXES OF BARELY CONTAINABLE POWER, CREATING INTER-DIMENSIONAL GATEWAYS.
LIKE THIS ONE HERE.
OTHER SHARDS BECAME PARTS OF LIVING BEINGS... SOULS, IF YOU WILL. BEINGS IN VARIOUS STATES OF SELF-KNOWLEDGE...
...ALWAYS SEEKING PURPOSE IN LIFE, NEVER HAPPY, ALWAYS WANDERING... CERTAIN THEY'RE PART OF A GREATER WHOLE, BUT NEVER KNOWING WHAT PART OR WHAT WHOLE.
MANY GO NUTS OR DESTROY THEMSELVES. A FEW SPEND THEIR LIVES WANDERING AND UNFULFILLED.
AND EVERY SO OFTEN, ONE OR TWO BECOME AWARE, LIKE ME.
AND YOU.

SO.
SO.
WE UNDERSTAND THE STAKES FOR WHICH WE FIGHT. I WOULD WISH IT OTHERWISE.
ME, TOO. IF I MIGHT ASK... WHO ARE YOU?
THOR, SON OF ODIN, GOD OF THUNDER. AND YOU--?
CAPTAIN MARVEL, WITH THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES, THE POWER OF ZEUS, THE SPEED OF MERCURY...
I SEE. WELL, CAPTAIN... AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS... THERE IS ONLY ONE APPROPRIATE THING FOR THOSE POSSESSING THE POWER OF GODS TO DO.
AND THEY DO.
THEY PRAY.

STILL ELSEWHERE...
A DISCIPLE OF DEATH... VERSUS A LORD OF DESTRUCTION.
TELL ME THEN, DARKSEID... WOULD YOU CARE TO MAKE A WAGER ON THE OUTCOME?
I WAGER YOU PALE IMITATION OF ME...
...THAT YOU WILL LOSE.
HEY, IT'S YOUR MONEY. YOU WANT TO LOSE IT BETTING AGAINST SUPERMAN, YOU GO RIGHT AHEAD.
INCREDIBLE. THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE IS HANGING IN THE BALANCE... AND PEOPLE ARE ACTUALLY PLACING BETS ON IT!

mmmmm!
TRUST ME, SCARECROW! SHE MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH... BUT SHE'S A VALUABLE HOSTAGE!
I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT, SCARECROW!
HEY--IF I CAN GIVE AN OPINION HERE...
...WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO OFF AND LOOK FOR BRAINS OR MRS. KING OR SOMETHING?
YOU OKAY?
I... I'M FINE, PETER. LET'S GET BACK TO THE PLANET... WHILE THERE STILL IS ONE.
WELL, WELL... LOOKS LIKE LOIS IS ATTENDED TO.
FINALLY MANAGED TO DITCH KENT AND WAS ABOUT TO SWITCH TO SPIDEY...
...BUT WITH LOIS IN TROUBLE, I DIDN'T DARE TAKE THE TIME TO CHANGE.
TO SAY NOTHING OF THERE STILL BEING A UNIVERSE.
I WONDER IF I SHOULD BE JEALOUS.

PLACE YOUR BETS! YOUR BETS RIGHT HERE ON CAPTAIN MARVEL KICKING BUTT! RIGHT, RICK?
FORGET IT, SNAPPER. NO WAY THOR GOES DOWN!
THIS IS NUTS! INSTEAD OF FIGHTING, WE SHOULD BE FINDING A WAY TO MAKE THOSE COSMIC BABIES WORK AND PLAY NICE TOGETHER!
BA-KOW!
I AGREE!
BUT IF WE REFUSE TO DO BATTLE, WE WILL NEVER HAVE THE TIME TO SEARCH FOR THAT SOLUTION.
OOOOFF!

HOW NOW? I WOULD WELCOME THE OFFER OF YOUR SURRENDER, CAPTAIN, SO YOU CAN BE SPARED FURTHER HARM.
SHOOM!
THANKS! BUT I THOUGHT IT'D BE MORE CONSTRUCTIVE IF I USED THE POWER OF ZEUS AND HERCULES...
... BECAUSE THOSE GREEKS COULD BE PRETTY FIERCE WITH A DISCUS!
KRAK!
INDEED.

KRUNNCH!
CAN'T BE IMMOBILIZED, EVEN FOR A SECOND!
SHAZAM!!
OOOOhh, THIS IS GONNA HURT...
PERFECT! WHERE CAPTAIN MARVEL MIGHT HAVE BEEN TRAPPED... MOMENTARILY...
...BILLY BATSON WAS ABLE TO SLIP THROUGH WITH NO PROBLEM!
SO... YOU HAVE A SMALLER, WEAKER ALTER EGO.
AT LEAST YOUR MORTAL IDENTITY IS NOT LAME OF LEG.
REMIND ME TO INTRODUCE YOU TO A KID NAMED FREDDIE.
BACK TO BUSINESS!
SHAZAM!

SO! LIGHTNING HOLDS THE KEY TO YOUR POWER!
THEN IT IS ONLY THROUGH MY GOOD GRACES THAT YOUR POWER WOULD REACH YOU ... AND I AM NOT FEELING ESPECIALLY GRACI--
UNNHHH!
SHAZAAK!
FOR A LONG MOMENT HE LIES THERE, STUNNED, AND THEN...
WELL... IT WOULD SEEM THE TRIUMPH IS MINE... ALTHOUGH I MISLIKE THE NATURE OF THE VICTORY.
BUT WHERE IS MIGHTY MJOLNIR? DID THE OTHERWORLDLY LIGHTNING SOMEHOW "SHORT CIRCUIT" MY HAMMER?
THAT BEING THE CASE, WHERE COULD IT HAVE LANDED?

WHAT IN THE WORLD?
IT LOOKS LIKE AN ANCIENT NORSE BATTLE HAMMER.
AND THIS INSCRIPTION...
"...IF HE BE WORTHY..?"
"WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF HE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF... THOR"
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. "WORTHY" IS AN AWFULLY SUBJECTIVE WORD. HOW DOES ONE DETERMINE WORTHINESS TO POSSESS THE POWER OF...
ARRRHH!

ELSEWHERE...
STAY STILL FOOL, SO I CAN END THIS QUICKLY AND SPARE YOU SERIOUS HARM.
I WOULD LOVE TO... BUT YOU'RE SO MUSCLEBOUND AND SLOW THAT I JUST CAN'T HELP DODGING!
HOW LOST YOU THE HAND, PRAY TELL? DID IT SNAP OFF FROM YOUR HAVING PATTED YOURSELF ON THE BACK TOO OFTEN?
AT THIS RATE, NEITHER OF US WILL EVER LAND A...
FACE FACTS, POINTY EARS... WE'RE TOO EVENLY MATCHED.
BACHOOM!
I BELIEVE THE WORD HE SOUGHT WAS "PUNCH."

D... DAD? THAT WHOLE WEIRD THING WITH THOSE... THOSE...
...GODS...
DID YOU...?
YEAH, KID, I DID. IT WAS LIKE DREAMING WHILE I WAS AWAKE.
IN ALL MY YEARS, I NEVER SEEN NOTHING LIKE--!
THAT! DAD... DO YOU SEE THAT?!
JEEZ! A TORNADO!!
OOOOOFF!! THE FLASH--?!
YOU'RE FAST, QUICKSILVER, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT!
IN YOUR UNIVERSE, YOU MIGHT EVEN BE THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!
BUT THE FASTEST CAR IN THE WORLD STILL LOOKS LIKE A SNAIL NEXT TO AN SST!

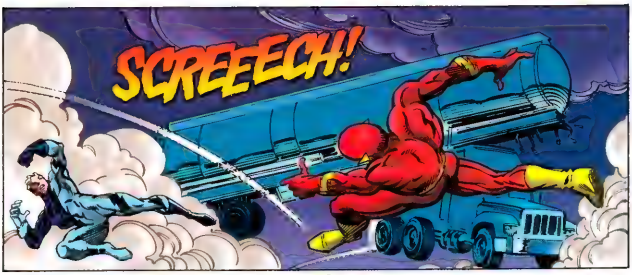
TOO BAD WE HAVE TO BE AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS. WE'D BE BETTER AS FRIENDS THAN ENEMIES.
I HAVE...
...unh!...
...MORE THAN ENOUGH...
...OOF!...
...OF BOTH!

WHAT I NEED IS A TRIUMPH, SO MY UNIVERSE CAN SURVIVE!
WELL, DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER, BUT YOUR UNIVERSE IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!

BEEEEEEEP!

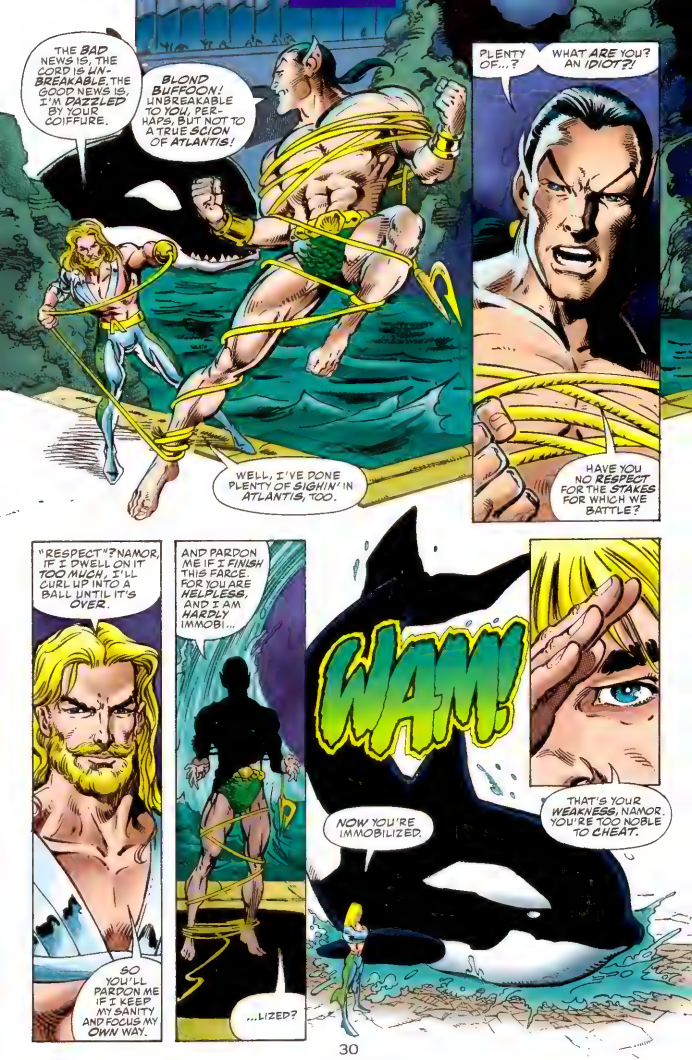
uh

oh


SCREEECH!

DAD! WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE--
--!!!!!!TTT!
¿ahhhukk!¿
¿hukkk!¿
'S...'SCUSE ME... TOOK IN SOME ¿ahukk¿ SMOKE...
HEY! LOOK OU--
UNHHH!
WHAT A WONDERFUL TRIUMPH THIS WILL BE...
...TAKING DOWN AN OPPONENT AFTER HE RISKED LIFE AND LIMB TO SAVE OTHERS.
EVEN TAKING JOY IN IT BECAUSE I WAS ANGRY TO FIND SOMEONE FASTER THAN I.
SOME "FRIEND" I WOULD HAVE BEEN, EVEN IF THINGS HAD WORKED OUT...
ALMOST HAD ME THERE, FELLA!
unhhh!
BUT HE WHO HESITATES... IS LOST.

STILL ELSEWHERE...
SPLOOSH!
LOOK OUT, swimmer!
WHAT? THE MARINER--?
YOU PURPORT TO BE AN ATLANTEAN KING, EH, "AQUAMAN"?
I AM NEITHER AMUSED NOR IMPRESSED BY YOU!
YOU KNOW, AT MY WORST, I WAS MOROSE. BUT YOU'RE REALLY INSUFFERABLE, NAMOR. MUST BE THE JOB.
SURRENDER, ATLANTEAN IMPOSTOR. SAVE US TIME, SO WE CAN RETURN TO OUR RESPECTIVE PEERS AND DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN.
AS IT STANDS, YOUR STRENGTH IS NO MATCH FOR MINE.
AH, BUT FORTUNATELY I'M LOADED WITH CHARM.


THE BAD NEWS IS, THE CORD IS UN-BREAKABLE. THE GOOD NEWS IS, I'M DAZZLED BY YOUR COIFFURE.
BLOND BUFFOON! UNBREAKABLE TO YOU, PERHAPS, BUT NOT TO A TRUE SCION OF ATLANTIS!
WELL, I'VE DONE PLENTY OF SIGHIN' IN ATLANTIS, TOO.
PLENTY OF...?
WHAT ARE YOU? AN IDIOT?!
HAVE YOU NO RESPECT FOR THE STAKES FOR WHICH WE BATTLE?
"RESPECT"? NAMOR, IF I DWELL ON IT TOO MUCH, I'LL CURL UP INTO A BALL UNTIL IT'S OVER.
SO YOU'LL PARDON ME IF I KEEP MY SANITY AND FOCUS MY OWN WAY.
AND PARDON ME IF I FINISH THIS FARCE FOR YOU ARE HELPLESS, AND I AM HARDLY IMMOBI...
...LIZED?
WAM!
NOW YOU'RE IMMOBILIZED.
THAT'S YOUR WEAKNESS, NAMOR. YOU'RE TOO NOBLE TO CHEAT.

AND...
I'M FINE, PETER, REALLY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FUSS OVER ME...
...ALTHOUGH I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT.
MY HERO.
BATTLE
SUB-MARINER VS. AQUAMAN
FLASH VS. QUICKSILVER
THOR VS. CAPTAIN
DAILY
JEEZ... I THINK SHE WANTS ME!
NICE GUY. NO CLARK, OF COURSE.
WHAT IS THIS?
MY EMPLOYEES LOLLYGAGGING ABOUT? I DO NOT APPROVE.
THAT'S THE KINGPIN!
EM... EMPLOYEES? WHO ARE YOU?!
MY NAME, SIR, IS WILSON FISK. AND I HAVE PURCHASED THIS FACILITY.
SO MIND YOUR MANNERS.
FOR YOU DO NOT WISH TO ANGER ME.

"ANGER, AFTER ALL, IS THE FIRST STEP TO FULL-SCALE WAR.
"AND FULL-SCALE WAR CAN BE SUCH AN UNPLEASANT BUSINESS."
CONTINUED IN MARVEL vs. DC #3! (WHEREIN WE LEARN THE RESULTS OF YOUR VOTING ON THE BATTLES OF THE CENTURY!)

MARVEL COMICS VERSUS DC

SCOREBOARD

The tally so far . . .

MARVEL			DC
HULK			SUPERMAN
CAPTAIN AMERICA			BATMAN
STORM			WONDER WOMAN
SPIDER-MAN			SUPERBOY
WOLVERINE			LOBO
QUICKSILVER		X	FLASH
JUBILEE			ROBIN
SUB-MARINER		X	AQUAMAN
ELEKTRA			CATWOMAN
THOR	X		CAPTAIN MARVEL
SILVER SURFER			GREEN LANTERN

That's the score right now—DC leads by 1! But this game's not finished yet! There're 8 more battles to go, and the combatants are closely matched in power, skill, and intelligence. What will be the fate of comics' two greatest universes? That's up to 16 superhuman beings and YOU! Your votes are all in and being tallied—look for the results NEXT ISSUE!

★DECISION '96!★

The fate of the two greatest comic book universes hangs in the balance. Eleven battles will determine which universe is supreme. And *you* get to decide which fighters will win The Battle of the Century!

There are six preliminary "bouts" looming in the cosmic title match that is DC VERSUS MARVEL! Aquaman vs. The Sub-Mariner! Elektra vs. Catwoman! Captain Marvel vs. Thor! Jubilee vs. Robin! The Flash vs. Quicksilver! Silver Surfer vs. Green Lantern!

Next up on the MARVEL VERSUS DC card are the five main events (the heavyweights, if you will)! Superman vs. Hulk! Captain America vs. Batman! Lobo vs. Wolverine! Storm vs. Wonder Woman! Superboy vs. Spider-Man!

Eleven representatives from the Marvel Universe and eleven representatives from the DC Universe.

All the greatest of their kind.

All aware that the Universe that loses the most battles could cease to exist forever.

All at your mercy, because *you* will have controlled the outcome of the five main events!

With the ballot found in our first issue, *you* helped answer the age-old question of who would win these universe-spanning confrontations!

What follows is important information that will help you predict who the winners of the battles next issue could or should be.

Each combatant in DC VERSUS MARVEL is featured here. Their facts and figures are presented in an effort to enlighten you regarding the strengths and abilities of each and every hero involved. All this is designed to give you the statistical input needed to make an educated choice regarding who would vanquish who in a knock-down, drag-out contest of might and wits!

MARVEL VERSUS DC is your opportunity to learn who are the strongest, fastest, smartest and fiercest fighters in the two greatest comic universes of all time!

★MAY THE BEST UNIVERSE WIN!★

RESULTS TO BE SEEN NEXT ISSUE

JUBILEE

Real name: Jubilation Lee
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Publicly known
Current occupation: Adventurer
Former occupations: High school student
Place of birth: Beverly Hills, California, Marvel-Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters, Massachusetts Academy, Marvel-Earth
Current group membership: Generation X
Height: 5' 5" **Weight:** 105 lbs
Eyes: Blue **Hair:** Black
Superhuman powers: Superhuman ability to generate energy globules called "fireworks," capable of various effects including dazzling light and explosive concussions
Source of powers: Benevolent mutation
Special skills: Better-than average unarmed combatant
Weapons: None
First appearance: UNCANNY X-MEN #244 (1989)

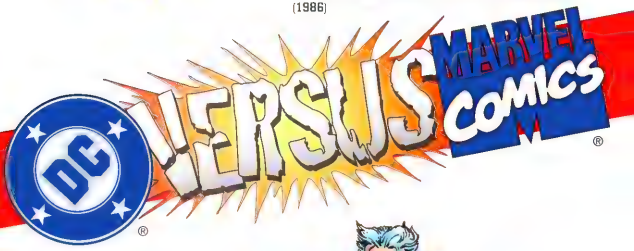
MARVEL COMICS VERSUS DC

ROBIN

Real name: Tim Drake
Other current aliases: Alvin Draper
Dual identity: Secret
Current occupation: High school student
Former occupations: None
Place of birth: Gotham City, U.S.A.–DC-Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Gotham City
Current group membership: None
Height: 5' 3" **Weight:** 120 lbs.
Eyes: Blue **Hair:** Black
Superhuman powers: None
Source of powers: Not applicable
Special skills: A superb martial artist and acrobat, incredibly well-versed in detection and computer science
Weapons: Robin's costume is virtually fireproof and bulletproof and contains numerous devices such as gas pellets, lasers, and throwing darts. He also carries a sling and a collapsible bo staff.
First appearance: BATMAN #457 (1990)

THE FLASH

Real name: Wallace West
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Generally known
Current occupation: Super hero
Former occupations: Student, I.R.S. agent, overnight courier
Place of birth: Blue Valley, Nebraska, USA, DC-Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Keystone City
Current group membership: The Justice League
Height: 6' 0" **Weight:** 175 lbs.
Eyes: Green **Hair:** Red
Superhuman powers: The fastest man alive, he can propel himself at speeds approaching the speed of light; can "lend" speed to already moving objects and people; vibrate through barriers, leaving an explosive, kinetic charge in his wake; using speed can generate heat and destructive vibration
Source of powers: Directly channels power from an extra dimensional energy source known as the "speed field"
Special skills: (see Superhuman Powers)
Weapons: None
First appearence: As teen hero, Kid Flash–FLASH #110 (1959). As Flash–CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS #12 (1986)



QUICKSILVER

Real name: Pietro Maximoff
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Publicly known
Current occupation: Adventurer
Former occupations: Terrorist, government operative
Place of birth: Wundagore Mountain, Transia, Marvel-Earth
Marital status: Married (wife: Crystal)
Usual base of operations: Avengers Mansion, New York City
Current group membership: The Avengers
Height: 6' 0" **Weight:** 175 lbs.
Eyes: Blue **Hair:** Silver
Superhuman powers: Superhuman speed (upper limit: speed of sound), reaction time, endurance
Source of powers: Benevolent mutation
Special skills: Mastery of fighting at high velocity
Weapons: None
First appearance: X-MEN #4 (1964)

THOR

Real name: Thor
Other current aliases: None
Former aliases: Dr. Donald Blake, Sigurd Jarlson
Dual identity: Inapplicable
Current occupation: Adventurer
Former occupations: Warrior, prince of Asgard
Place of birth: A cave in Norway, Marvel-Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Avengers Mansion, New York City
Current group membership: The Avengers
Height: 6' 6" **Weight:** 640 lbs.
Eyes: Blue **Hair:** Blond
Superhuman powers: Superhuman strength, stamina, and resistance to injury
Source of powers: Asgardian heritage
Special skills: Expert at hand to hand combat and wielding a hammer in battle
Weapons: The enchanted hammer Mjolnir, virtually indestructible, and capable of summoning storms and vortex spatial/dimensional transport
First appearance: JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #83 (1962)

MARVEL COMICS VERSUS DC

CAPTAIN MARVEL *(DC)*

Real name: Billy Batson
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Secret
Current occupation: Student, radio announcer
Former occupations: None
Place of birth: Fawcett City, U.S.A., DC-Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Fawcett City
Current group membership: None
Height: 6' 2" **Weight:** 220 lbs.
Eyes: Blue **Hair:** Black
Superhuman powers: Wields the Power of Shazam—able to draw upon the Wisdom of Solomon, the Strength of Hercules, the Stamina of Atlas, the Power of Zeus, the Courage of Achilles, and the Speed of Mercury
Source of powers: Granted by ancient wizard Shazam via covenant with the gods
Special skills: None
Weapons: None
First appearance: WHIZ COMICS #1 (1940)

CATWOMAN

Real name: Selina Kyle
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Secret
Current occupation: Professional criminal
Former occupations: None
Place of birth: Gotham City, U.S.A.–DC-Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Gotham City
Current group membership: None
Height: 5' 11" **Weight:** 140 lbs.
Eyes: Green **Hair:** Black
Superhuman powers: None
Source of powers: Not applicable
Special skills: Olympic-level athlete, superb martial artist, expert thief
Weapons: Whip, retractable boot & glove claws, Catspaw grappling hook, as well as an array of high-tech burglary tools
First appearance: BATMAN #1 (1940)

ELEKTRA

Real name: Elektra Natchios
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Publicly known
Current occupation: Adventurer
Former occupations: Assassin, bounty hunter
Place of birth: Near the Aegean Islands, Marvel Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Mobile
Current group membership: None
Height: 5' 9" **Weight:** 130 lbs.
Eyes: Blue **Hair:** Black
Superhuman powers: Limited psychic powers including illusion-casting and creating psychic bonds enabling mental communication
Source of powers: Training
Special skills: Olympic level athlete, expert at hand-to-hand combat and Japanese ninja techniques
Weapons: Sai (three pronged dagger)
First appearance: DAREDEVIL #168 (1981)

SILVER SURFER

Real name: Norrin Radd
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Inapplicable
Current occupation: Interstellar adventurer
Former occupations: Herald of Galactus
Place of birth: Zenn-La, Deneb System, Milky Way Galaxy, Marvel-Universe
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: Known space
Current group membership: Star Masters
Height: 6' 4" **Weight:** Unrevealed
Eyes: Silver (pupil-less) **Hair:** None
Superhuman powers: Superhuman strength, stamina, and resistance to injury, ability to survive without food or oxygen, heightened senses, ability to project cosmic energy for a variety of effects
Source of powers: Imbued by Galactus's power cosmic
Special skills: Expert surfer, skilled at molecular rearrangement
Weapons: None
Paraphernalia: A surfboard responsive to his mental commands
First appearance: FANTASTIC FOUR #48 (1966)

MARVEL COMICS VERSUS DC

GREEN LANTERN

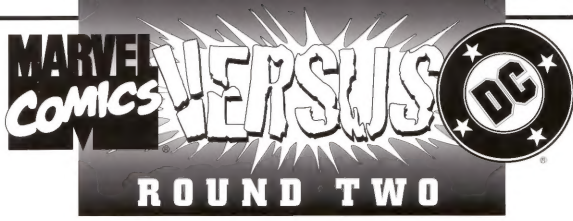
Real name: Kyle Rayner
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Secret
Current occupation: Freelance artist
Former occupations: Member of the New Titans
Place of birth: Los Angeles, California, DC-Earth
Marital status: Single
Usual base of operations: New York City
Current group membership: None
Height: 5' 11" **Weight:** 162 lbs
Eyes: Brown **Hair:** Black
Superhuman powers: (see Weapons)
Source of powers: The last Green Lantern power ring (see Weapons)
Special skills: Artist
Weapons: The most powerful weapon in the universe, Kyle's power ring can create virtually anything or any effect he can imagine—a ring-generated exoskeleton, any kind of armament, gun or shield. It can protect him from almost any attack and enable him to travel at incredible speeds. Requires recharge occasionally when power is used up.
First appearance: As Kyle Rayner: GREEN LANTERN #48 (2nd series-1993). As Green Lantern: GREEN LANTERN #50 (2nd series-1993)

AQUAMAN

Real name: Orin
Other current aliases: Arthur Curry
Dual identity: Publicly known
Current occupation: Protector of the Seas and Oceans
Former occupations: Crime-fighter, King of Poseidonis, Justice League member
Place of birth: Atlantis, DC-Earth
Marital status: Separated
Usual base of operations: Mobile
Current group membership: None
Height: 6' 1" **Weight:** 325 lbs.
Eyes: Aqua-blue **Hair:** Blond
Superhuman powers: Ability to communicate directly with sea life, ability to sense the primal emotions of aquatic creatures, can swim underwater at rates up to 100 mph, can withstand extremes of temperature and pressure
Source of powers: Son of wizard and Atlantean queen
Special skills: Excels at hand-to-hand combat
Weapons: Hook that has replaced his left hand is able to shoot a thin cord to ensnare an enemy or can be used as a rope for climbing or swinging. Hook is also able to drill through objects.
First appearance: MORE FUN COMICS #73 (1941)

SUB-MARINER

Real name: Namor McKenzie
Other current aliases: None
Dual identity: Publicly known
Current occupation: Chief executive officer of Oracle, Ltd.
Former occupations: Monarch of Atlantis
Place of birth: Capital city of the Atlantean Empire, Marvel-Earth
Marital status: Widowed
Usual base of operations: The Atlantic Ocean
Current group membership: None
Height: 6' 2" **Weight:** 310 lbs.
Eyes: Green **Hair:** Blue-grey
Superhuman powers: Superhuman strength, stamina, and resistance to injury, ability to breathe underwater and survive ocean bottom pressure, ability to fly
Source of powers: Born a human-merman hybrid
Special skills: Expert swordsman, experienced tactician
Weapons: None
First appearance: MARVEL COMICS #1 (1939)



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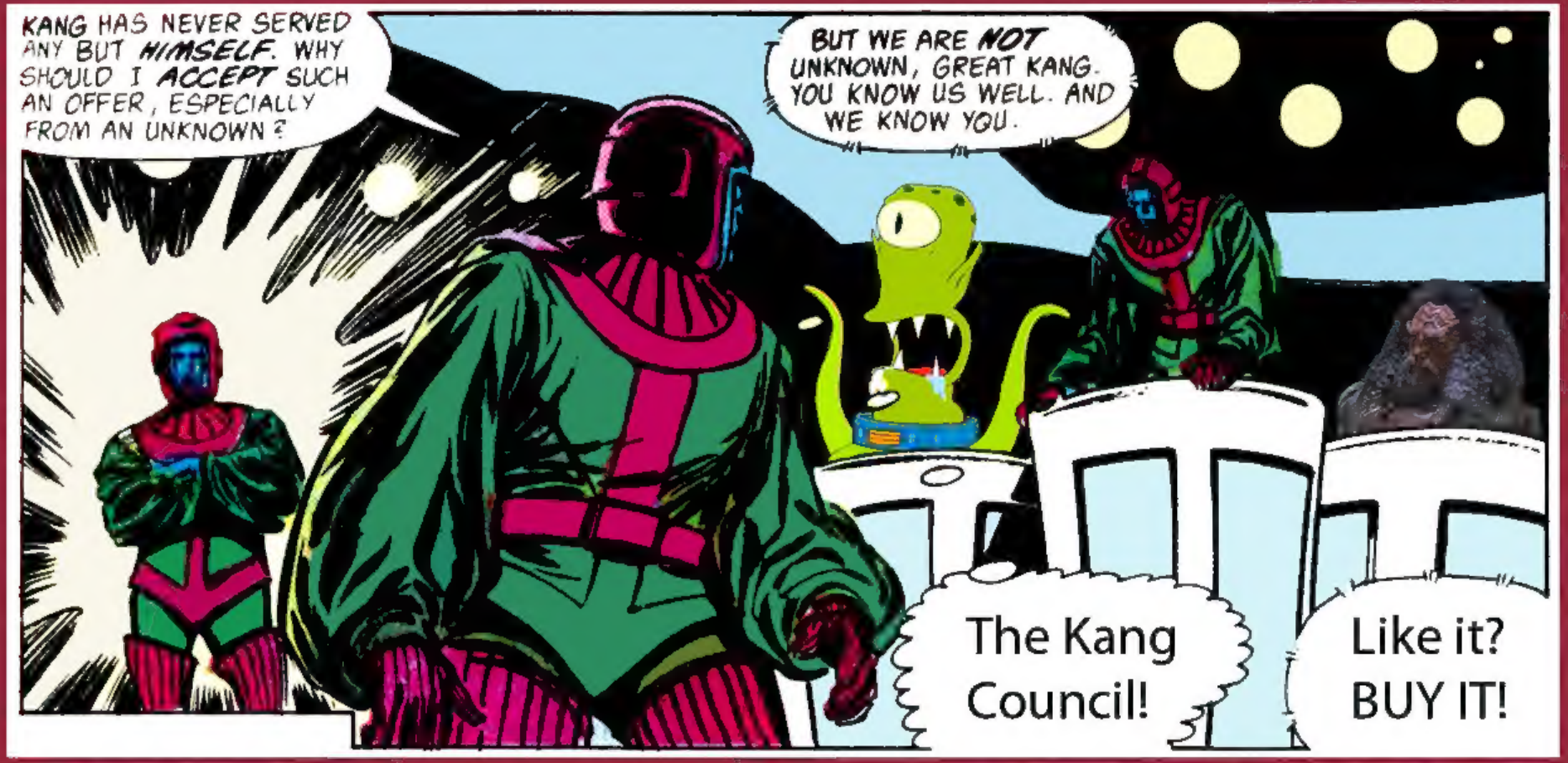
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